

# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431

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## Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2013

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Rachel Buonopane, Michael Rademacher, John Thompson, Heidi Hample, Molly Fleuckiger, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Susan James, Janice Dallas

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting began at 4:15 pm

**1. Meeting minutes from 7/17/13 approved**

**2. Town Day September 21, 2013 10-3**

- Items to distribute: magnets, pens and bags
- Will have 2 tables this year
- Volunteers for the day: Rachel (am), Maureen (maybe), Heidi (10-11:30), John (for the duration), Molly (12:30), Kerrie (am), Jack
- Molly interested in writing piece for newsletter about snow removal
- Articles still coming in for the newsletter: John, Maureen and Heidi have submitted
- Things to bring: our business cards, holders for items, rocks/paper weights to hold down loose paper
- Suggestion box: Heidi and Maureen to work on
- Questionnaire discussed- what could the commission be working on
- Plan for follow up to these items in our October/November meetings
- Wexler (John's dog) to be there for town day
- How to attract attention to table: balloons
- Have clipboards for people to use for suggestions

**3. Accessible Parking at Alewife Plaza (Menotomy Tavern)**

- 120 spaces in the lot, shared by Menotomy Tavern, CVS, Arlington health and fitness and medical offices (in rear)
- Jack spoke with Marley Properties (owner of whole property) regarding the handicap spot that had previously been located near the front door that had been re-lined as regular spot
- The spot has now been painted as handicap spot again- sign will be put up within the next two weeks per report *Will follow up at next meeting to confirm*
- Question of whether access aisle is regulation (5 ft)

- Discussion of how we, as the Commission, need to learn more about parking lot regulations, how we can and should get involved, and how we go about getting these things done

#### **4. Accessible entrances and public accommodations**

- New complaint from person in town
- Two entrances in East Arlington: Wings over Arlington and Anthony's East Side Deli each have a step to enter
- Discussion of legality and responsibilities of owners to allow equal access
- If 30% of property value is spent in renovations, then establishment needs to be fully compliant
- Are these locations offering reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities?
- Noted that establishments that make themselves accessible can receive a \$250 tax credit and \$250-up to cost of renovation tax exemption (should be made available to business owners as incentive)
- Subcommittee to be formed: Molly as point person to meet with Mike Burn and Burt Pusch- to resolve complaint as best possible
- Follow up with economic development and Chamber of Commerce regarding access to business in town

#### **5. Accessible Entrance/Parking in front of AHS**

- Accessible entrance and curb cut complete
- Parking lot needs to be restriped- will put two spaces near the center accessible door, one spot will be van accessible
- Hopeful to be done in time for start of school
- Jack has been in contact (*will update Commission at next meeting*)

#### **6. Access to Peirce Field Stands**

- Football field at AHS
- Complaint that there was not access to lift to top of stands
- It is now understood that all coaches have access (key) to lift
- Discussion of changing procedure, as coaches will be busy coaching game or practice, possibilities of someone else having the key be available
- Signage to alert people who to ask for key to lift
- *Follow up with school, letter to Superintendent/ Supervisor of Building Maintenance/ Athletic Director*

#### **7. Access Concern at Robbins Library**

- A private book club began using space at Library
- The space provided was in a room without windows
- A town member struggled with this space (closed in) due to her disability and asked for an accommodation
- The accommodation was not provided, the town member reports that because her disability was not of a physical nature that it was not treated as a priority

- Subsequently the person quit the group
- *Mike to follow up with library director to find out more details of complaint and response from library staff*
- *Will follow up on this topic at next meeting*

#### **8. Outdoor Seating at Restaurants**

- Community member concerned with outdoor seating
- Question of new restaurant Common Ground, meeting took place, deferred discussion to a few weeks from now
- Molly asked for the requests that were sent to the Board of Selectmen for outdoor seating
- Board of Selectmen to put together this list to provide to this Commission
- Molly spoke with Commission of Disability of Cambridge and they gave her a link to a power point presentation on this topic
- Discussion of tables near the building vs near the curb and how this affects access to people, particularly the visually impaired
- Reportedly there needs to be a 36-48 inch clear path

#### **9. Curb Cut Ramp**

- Official list has been completed, sent to Jack from Vinnie
- The list looks good upon inspection today

#### **10. Commission's FY 2014 Budget**

- Review of spending and budget spreadsheet
- Balance of \$1417.38 to carry over to add to \$3000.00 incoming
- How do we plan on spending the money over the next year?
- Will discuss in future meetings what we plan to spend the money on- based on our goals

#### **11. Access to Town Hall**

**Bumped to next meeting**

#### **12. Bricks left in crosswalks after Street repaving**

- Community member complaint that bricks were left in the street in the heights with new paving
- Michael confirms that these are pavers in crosswalks that have been there for years and were part of a larger planning process for that area, if they were going to be removed it would need to be part of a formal process with necessary approvals and money allotted for that task. There was not money included in this current project for removal.
- Workers to make sure that road surface smoothly abuts these pavers to allow for smooth travel
- One request during the meeting, that these crosswalks be made more visible for drivers, painted stripes to be added

#### **13. Thompson School Survey**

- Reportedly wait for occupancy permit before allowing Commission to look at the school
- School to open Sept 15<sup>th</sup> (community members invited to see the school)
- The plan to get us in there before opening to review accessibility did not happen
- Question of whether the school needed to be inspected by the state as the Town received state funds to perform the work

**14-17. pushed to next meeting**

**TO DO: and/or discuss at next meeting (continued)**

- Invite Carol (Master Plan) to come to a meeting to speak with us
- Bike rentals for the bike path (accessible)
- Finalize Town Day Plan- have articles into Jack by August meeting
- Further discuss Master Plan/ Transition Plan
- Follow up on Menotomy Tavern parking lot

**Meeting adjourned 6:10pm**

**Next Meeting set September 18, 2013**